

# ***Holiday Guide to Giving & Volunteering - 2010***

*(volunteers are needed for these holiday-focused programs and events)*

## **American Red Cross**

411 E. 7th St. Bloomington, IN 47408

**Mission:** The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement. It provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

**November & December:** The Holiday Mail for Heroes program enables the American public to send a touch of home this holiday season to members of our U.S. Armed Forces, veterans and their families. Volunteers are needed to help sort cards and ensure the success of this project.

**Contact:** June Taylor, 812-332-7292, [jtaylor@monroe-redcross.org](mailto:jtaylor@monroe-redcross.org) ([www.monroe-redcross.org](http://www.monroe-redcross.org))

## **Area 10 Agency on Aging**

630 W. Edgewood Dr. Ellettsville, IN 47429

**Mission:** Area 10 Agency on Aging is a private, nonprofit corporation serving elderly persons in Monroe and Owen Counties by improving the quality of life and celebrating the independence, health, and dignity of all senior citizens.

**November:** Thanksgiving Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens.

**December:** Christmas Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens.

**Contact:** Mary Boutain, 812-935-2505, [mboutain@area10agency.org](mailto:mboutain@area10agency.org) ([www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org))

## **Backstreet Missions, Inc.**

215 S. Westplex Ave. Bloomington, IN 47404

**Mission:** Backstreet Missions is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the homeless and hurting.

**November:** Food collections are welcome between Nov. 8-12 for Thanksgiving food baskets. Food may be dropped off at the Agape House women's shelter (400 S. Opportunity Lane; on W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. between Johnson and Kimble Streets). Volunteers are needed to distribute the baskets on Sat. Nov. 20. Volunteers are needed to serve food on Thanksgiving Day at the soup kitchen, Geno's Cafeteria. Food is welcome on a year-round basis to supply the food pantry/ assistance outreach and the soup kitchen.

**December:** Adopt-A-Child Christmas program. Please call to get clothing, shoe sizes and gift preferences for children. Volunteers are also needed to help wrap Christmas gifts for children.

**Contact:** Linda Kelley, 812-333-6360, [linda@backstreet.org](mailto:linda@backstreet.org) ([www.backstreet.org](http://www.backstreet.org))

## **Be a Santa to a Senior**

676 S. College Ave. Bloomington, IN 47403

**Mission:** Be a Santa to a Senior positively impacts the community by providing holiday cheer and gift giving to seniors who are least likely to receive a present during the holiday season, are lonely or financially challenged, and often reside in nursing home facilities.

**December:** Come help us wrap presents at our Wrap Party on Dec. 14 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Sterling House (3802 S. Sare Road).

**Contact:** Jackie Hays, 812-961-2222, [brittonm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:brittonm@bloomington.in.gov) ([www.bloomington.in.gov/latino](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/latino))

## **Bloomington Transit**

130 W. Grimes Lane Bloomington, IN 47403

**December:** Help Stuff the Bus with Toys! During the holiday season, Bloomington Transit is partnering with B97 and the Salvation Army to make the holidays merrier for children and families in need. The goal is to literally "stuff" a decorated Bloomington Transit bus completely full of donated unwrapped new toys and clothes to be distributed in the Bloomington area. Persons wishing to make a donation can either drop off their items at the bus between Dec. 3-13 (see [www.bloomingtontransit.com](http://www.bloomingtontransit.com) for locations and times) or at Bloomington Transit's main office. Volunteers are needed to staff the bus in two-hour increments to accept donations. Without this assistance, Stuff-A-Bus would not be possible.

**Contact:** Brenda Underwood, 812-332-5688, [underwbr@bloomingtontransit.com](mailto:underwbr@bloomingtontransit.com) ([www.bloomingtontransit.com](http://www.bloomingtontransit.com))

## **Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington**

311 S. Lincoln Street; P.O. Box 1716 Bloomington IN 47402

**Mission:** The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington is to enable all young people to become caring, productive, responsible citizens.

**December: Adopt-A-Family:** Make a holiday possible for a family that is truly in need. Family members from the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club reside in the BHA Crestmont Community or Arlington Park Apartments. Average family income for our families is less than \$6,000 a year!

**Contact:** Shawna Meyer-Niederman, 812-336-6501, [smeyern@bgcbloomington.org](mailto:smeyern@bgcbloomington.org)

**December: Holiday Break Camp:** Come spend part of your "time off" with our kids! Volunteers will act as camp counselors and will be paired with a staff member and group of 10-12 campers. Volunteer counselors will assist staff with programs and activities throughout the day. Depending on the shift chosen, volunteers may also accompany children on the daily field trip! Camp Days: Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30. Shifts are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12-4 p.m. or 2-6 p.m.

**Contact:** Audrey Hall, Camp and Athletic Director, [ahall@bgcbloomington.org](mailto:ahall@bgcbloomington.org) ([www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org))

## **Cardinal Stage Company**

*115 N. College Ave, Suite 210 Bloomington IN 47404; PO Box 1253 Bloomington IN 47402*

**Mission:** Cardinal Stage Company is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a professional regional theatre company in Bloomington.

**November:** Ushers needed for all performances of The Santaland Diaries, Nov. 24-28. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to usher. The show is for 'mature elves only'. Volunteers assist audience members before and after the performance and are invited to watch the show for free.

**December:** Ushers needed for all performances of The Christmas Carol Dec. 16-26. Volunteers must be 16 to usher, 13 if volunteering with a parent. Volunteers assist audience members before and after the performance and are invited to watch the show for free.

**Contact:** Marlene Gillen, 812-336-7110, [info@cardinalstage.org](mailto:info@cardinalstage.org) ([www.cardinalstage.org](http://www.cardinalstage.org))

## **City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach**

*401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach program was created to serve our community's rapidly growing Latino immigrant population as the liaison for the department and community organizations, providing support to the Spanish speaking population and promoting diversity and cultures.

**December:** Volunteers are needed to organize donation drives of new items such as children's clothing, toys and books are greatly appreciated. All donations are matched with families in need during the holidays.

**Contact:** Melissa Britton, 812-349-3860, [brittonm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:brittonm@bloomington.in.gov) ([www.bloomington.in.gov/latino](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/latino))

## **City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation**

*401 N. Morton St. Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department provides comprehensive programs that encompass educational, cultural, recreational, environmental, health, fitness, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

**November:** Do you enjoy the festive community atmosphere of the Farmers' Market? Searching for the perfect holiday gift? The Holiday Market features some of your favorite, locally grown farm products, arts and crafts by area artisans and the unforgettable TubaSantas. We're looking for volunteer elves to decorate, serve refreshments and assist with teardown on Nov. 27.

**December:** Enjoy the *Winter Wonderland* and help lead arts and crafts, monitor the Candy Cane Hunt, and register participants. Ten to twelve volunteers are needed on Dec. 5 at the Banneker Community Center, 903 W. Seventh St. Volunteers are also needed for *Skate with Santa*, to facilitate arts and crafts with children and provide tasty treats to warm their tummies, on Dec. 18. Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shift at the Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St.

**Contact:** Kim Ecenbarger, 812-349-3739, [ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov) ([www.bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/parks))

## **City of Bloomington Volunteer Network**

*401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network exists to mobilize volunteers to address community issues and build on community assets. It is our aim to inspire, support and celebrate volunteerism in our community.

**December:** Community organizations need certain things to do their work, and to do it well. When you look at the Community Wish List, you will see that some are more obvious than others. The items requested range from the no-cost to the big-ticket, but they all need someone to go to work to gather them up! Why not be that someone? To organize a Holiday Wish List collection drive, first go to [www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer) to view the List. Then organize a drive - large or small - within your school, family or faith community, or take the list along shopping and add a few extra items to your cart. Contact the organizations involved and arrange a good time to deliver. Mission accomplished - you have made a difference in the community and it's fun to be Santa!

**Contact:** Bet Savich, 812-349-3472, [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov) ([www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer))

## **Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.**

917 S. Rogers St. Bloomington, IN 47403

**Mission:** The Community Kitchen prepares, serves and distributes meals Monday through Saturday to anyone in need, providing a daily emergency meal service. In addition, the Kitchen provides snacks & meals to children attending at-risk youth agencies through the Back Pack Buddies program.

**November:** Volunteers are needed to assist with the traditional meal served on Thanksgiving Day from 3-6 p.m. Bags of groceries will also be distributed.

**December:** Volunteers are needed to assist with the traditional meal served on Christmas Day from 3-6 p.m. Bags of groceries will also be distributed.

**Contact:** Annie Brookshire, 812-332-0999, [assistantdirector@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:assistantdirector@monroecommunitykitchen.com) ([www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com))

## **Cry of the Children**

Bloomington, IN 47403

**Mission:** Cry of the Children improves the quality of life for adolescents in Bloomington by providing programs and services that enhance and promote the development of effective life and decision-making skills.

**November:** Volunteers are needed to assist with their fourth annual Thanksgiving Meal on Nov. 13 from 2-4 p.m at Bethel A.M.E Church at 302 N. Rogers St., Bloomington, In 47403.

**Contact:** Dellsie Boddie, 812-361-4059, [cryofthechildren@gmail.com](mailto:cryofthechildren@gmail.com)

## **Fair Trade Bloomington**

Bloomington, IN 47401

**Mission:** Fair Trade Bloomington provides the opportunity to contribute to global poverty relief through education and promotion of products that adhere to fair trade principles.

**December:** Students are needed for the holiday Free Enterprise Fair Trade Sale in the Frangipani Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on Dec. 2-3.

**Contact:** Mary Embry, 812-333-6871, [mcembry@indiana.edu](mailto:mcembry@indiana.edu) ([www.fairtradebloomington.org](http://www.fairtradebloomington.org))

## **Girls Incorporated of Monroe County**

1108 W. 8th Street Bloomington, IN 47404

**Mission:** Serving 500 girls in Monroe County, Girls Inc. provides exciting research-driven programming and sound mentoring in a supportive all-girl environment to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

**December:** Volunteers are needed to make the Holiday Hoopla happen! All are warmly invited to join Girls Inc. in ringing in the holiday season at Holiday Hoopla, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 throughout Fountain Square Mall. This is a joyous, family-oriented event! The \$5.00 ticket price for participants includes a hot pancake breakfast in the Fountain Square Ballroom, photos with Santa, a "kids only" shopping area where kids get to shop for gifts for their family and nothing sells for over \$5.00, entertainment provided by local musicians, a raffle for great prizes, and the always popular gingerbread house event for the kids. Tickets can be purchased at Girls Inc. and will also be available at the door.

**Contact:** Lee Ann Jourdan, 812-336-7313, [mdowling@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:mdowling@monroe.girls-inc.org) or [ljourdan@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:ljourdan@monroe.girls-inc.org) ([www.bloomington.in.us/~girlsinc](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~girlsinc))

## **Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County**

213 E. Kirkwood Avenue Bloomington, IN 47408

**Mission:** Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County promotes home ownership by building houses in partnership with families in need of adequate housing. Their mission is to build simple, decent affordable homes with people in need.

**November & December:** Habitat home builds take place on Sat. in Nov. & Dec. Volunteers are always needed to help build or bring food to the build site.

**December:** Office volunteers are needed in December to help with their annual holiday mailing.

**Contact:** Fiona Taggart, 812-331-4069, [volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org](mailto:volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org) ([www.monroecountyhabitat.org](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org))

## **Martha's House, Inc.**

919 S. Rogers St., P.O. Box 2115 Bloomington, Indiana 47402

**Mission:** The mission of Martha's House, Inc. is to provide safe shelter to individuals in crisis and experiencing homelessness.

**November:** Martha's House, Stepping Stones, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and Shalom Center host several events for Homelessness and Hunger Awareness week, Nov.15-22. These events include activities that build a community understanding of the issues and fund raising events that help support the four participating agencies.

**Contact:** Bobbie Summers, 812-332-1444, bsummers409@hotmail.com

### **Middle Way House, Inc.**

*P.O. Box 95, Bloomington, IN 47402*

**Mission:** To end violence, both structural and interpersonal in the lives of women and children. Middle Way House provides safe emergency shelter for women and their dependent children who are fleeing domestic violence.

**December: Adopt-A-Family:** We have families of all sizes ready for adoption. Can you help make a family's Christmas brighter? December volunteer training will be held Dec. 4. Please call Middle Way House for further information.

**Contact:** Liz Franklin, 812-333-7404 ([www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org))

### **Monroe County Humane Association**

*3410 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401*

**Mission:** The mission of the Monroe County Humane Association is to responsibly and compassionately lead, advocate, and educate for animal welfare.

**November & December:** Do you want to help the animals in need at the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter? Each year the MCHA and the community come together to collect supplies for them through the Holiday Pet Food and Supply Drive, which is from Thanksgiving through New Years. Volunteers are needed to pick up donations of food and supplies from various business locations around Bloomington, including Kroger, Marsh, Omalia's, T&T Pet Food & Supply, White River Co-op, K-Mart, The Fields, The Dog House, College Mall Vet, Bloomington Visitor's Center, Woodbridge Apartments, Bloomington East, Sassafras Hill Apartments, and other local Bloomington Businesses.

**December:** Do you have a knack for wrapping Christmas gifts? If so, perhaps you would like to help raise awareness for the MCHA while wrapping gifts for others. The MCHA will be at Barnes and Noble from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 18-19 and from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 19 at Borders.

**Contact:** Tricia Dishman, 812-333-6242, [helpthem@bluemarble.net](mailto:helpthem@bluemarble.net) ([www.monroehumane.org](http://www.monroehumane.org))

### **Monroe County United Ministries**

*827 W. 14th Court Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** Monroe County United Ministries provides quality affordable childcare for working families and basic needs assistance for those in crisis.

**November & December: Winter Food Drive** Volunteers are needed to transport food drive donations from collection sites to MCUM's pantry. Non-perishable food, cleaning supplies and hygiene products are welcome. Pickup can be arranged for large drives. Schedule is flexible but times are usually during business hours. Volunteers are also needed to sort food donations in the Emergency Food Pantry during and after the Winter Food Drive. Volunteer anytime Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and some Sat. mornings.

**Contact:** Cliff Edens, 812-339-3429, [mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us)

**December: Adopt-A-Family:** Donors can adopt a family enrolled by the childcare program by purchasing 3-5 gifts for each parent and child in the family. A list of family members and gift suggestions will be sent to you. Holiday food basket donations are also welcome.

**Contact:** Meri Reinhold, 812-339-3429. ([www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org))

### **Musical Arts Youth Orchestra**

*122 S. Walnut St., Suite M Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The Musical Arts Youth Orchestra's provides musical training to students of all levels and backgrounds, promotes excellence while fostering individual development, and prepares students as contributing community members.

**December:** Volunteers are needed to help with planning, soliciting silent auction items, the toy collection drive, and more, for the MAYO Holiday Chamber Orchestra and Jazz concert on Dec. 11 at Rhinos.

**Contact:** Kristen Bellisario, 317-441-4640 or 812-334-3100 ext. 106, [kristen@mayomusic.org](mailto:kristen@mayomusic.org) ([www.mayomusic.org](http://www.mayomusic.org))

### **Native American Community Center of Bloomington, Inc.**

**Mission:** The Native American Community Center of Bloomington is a nonprofit serving American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and educating the general public about indigenous peoples.

**November:** Volunteers are needed to assist with the Native American Heritage Month opening reception on Nov. 4 from 4-7 p.m. at City Hall. Volunteers are needed to pick up and arrange food and decorate before the event, and to help clean up afterwards. Volunteers are needed throughout the month of Nov. (Native American Heritage Month) to promote their small, free lending library to

K-12 educators by drafting letters and offering to meet with individual teachers to make recommendations on resources and lesson plans. Schedule is flexible. These resources will help educators be sure they are teaching accurate, up-to-date information about American Indians.

**Contact:** Rebecca Riall, 812-391-3457, [volunteer@naccbloomington.org](mailto:volunteer@naccbloomington.org) ([www.naccbloomington.org](http://www.naccbloomington.org))

## **Options**

*PO Box 1732 200 E. Winslow Dr. Bloomington, IN 47402*

**Mission:** Options partners with people with disabilities and their communities to bring about self-directed and fulfilled lives.

**November:** Options is collecting gifts to distribute to their customers at their Holiday Party. They are looking for small gifts for male and female customers, both adult and youth. All donations need to be received by Nov. 30 at their Bloomington office on Winslow Road.

**Contact:** January Jones, 812-332-9615, [jjones@optionsfbl.com](mailto:jjones@optionsfbl.com) ([www.optionsfbl.com](http://www.optionsfbl.com))

## **Salvation Army**

*111 N. Rogers St. PO Box 2117 Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The mission of the Salvation Army is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

**November:** Assistance is needed Nov. 1-5 to assist with the coat give away, application process, and sign-ups for individuals seeking assistance this Christmas. Multiple shifts are available each day.

### **November & December:**

**Kettle Drive:** Traditional kettles and holiday bells will ring in a new season Nov. 18-Dec. 24 at sites around Monroe County. Come out to spread the cheer of the season with The Salvation Army.

**Angel Tree** - Pick up an Angel tag at locations throughout Monroe County to provide a Christmas for a child without, from Nov. 10-Dec. 14. Angel Trees can be found at College Mall, Walmart and additional locations. Please visit their website for more information. Choose your favorite tag and purchase toys and clothing for that child in need. Return all toys and clothing to the location from which you selected the tag or directly to The Salvation Army.

**December:** Toy sorters needed! Thousands of toys will fill the gymnasium at The Salvation Army, and volunteers are needed to help sort and arrange. Day and Evening shifts begin Dec. 7. Also, many volunteers are needed for the distribution of gifts and food on Dec. 21-22.

**Contact:** Courtney Grau, 812-336-4310 ext. 12, [courtney\\_grau@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:courtney_grau@usc.salvationarmy.org) ([www.corps.salvationarmyindiana.org/bloomington](http://www.corps.salvationarmyindiana.org/bloomington))

## **Shalom Community Center**

*620 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401*

**Mission:** The Shalom Community Center is a safe daytime shelter and resource center for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

**November:** Kitchen volunteers are needed on Thanksgiving morning from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., then serving volunteers are needed. Servers are also needed on the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 26) from 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**November & December: Holiday Gift Program:** Shalom Community Center offers this program for children of families living in poverty. They anticipate up to 500 children this year. It is not necessary to get something for the parents but, if you choose to, we suggest a grocery store gift card that can be used to help with the purchase of the holiday meal. Bring gifts to the Shalom Community Center administration office on the third floor of the First United Methodist Church, 219 E. Fourth St. between Dec. 1-3.

**Contact:** Pam Kinnaman, 812-334-5734, [pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org](mailto:pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org) ([www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org))

## **South Central Community Action Program, Inc.**

*1500 W. 15th St. Bloomington, IN 47404*

**Mission:** The Community Action Program exists to provide opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence.

**November & December:** Volunteers are needed to organize collection drives for children's items, including boys and girls winter coats, sizes 0-5, child hats/gloves, children's winter boots, sizes 8 & up, craft supplies for children, and toys for children ages 0-5. Please deliver to 1500 W. 15th St.

**Contact:** Beth Pankoski, 812-339-3447 ext. 233, [beth@sccap.monroe.in.us](mailto:beth@sccap.monroe.in.us) ([www.insccap.org](http://www.insccap.org))